in THE WARE

CASE

Viola Roach

years. Indeed, it is doubtful if he would have done so had he not been

permitted to retain the little decorative

manhood this became metely a puppy

love affair, and France across the

border was the next object of his affection. To Paris he went and en-

tered the St. Cyr Military Academy

for him to give himself up completely

to France and so one fine day he flung

destinies and constancies to the wind

and flew to Madrid, donned the span

gled uniform of the toreadon and en-

tered the bull ring, a perfect Don

Jose. But old flames still burned in

his breast and he returned to deserted

France and urbanely settled down to

in a few years, settling down to

most sincere courtship. America was

not to be trifled with like her Conti-

nental sisters, and insisted that he

enter into a respectable, legal alle-

giance. However, Mr. Lou-Tellegen

was a most willing swain and his af-

fection for the new country was really

sincere. In fact, he bears his appella-

tion of "American" with pride and

By all the prerogatives of heredity

Harold de Becker, who plays the role

of Albert Prosser in "Hobson's Choice"

at the Comedy Theatre, ought to be

the leading tenor in a musical comedy.

Anybody whose grandfather was a

head singer at the court of the King

of Belgium-and such a good singer

that he was created a Baron by King

Leopold—and whose granduncle was principal tenor at Covent Garden dur-

ing the reign of Queen Victoria ought

to show some inclination toward the

musical art, but Harold de Becker de-

clares he couldn't sing two notes. How-

ever, he did not neglect the other arts.

First of all he is an actor and has been one since he was 9 years old.

Then he is a water color artist and a

clever sketcher in black and white, and now he has started as a sculptor.

Moreover, since some call the ability

o use one's fists scientifically an art,

places amateur boxing among his pro-

Mr. de Becker came to this country in 1901 with Charles Hawtrey in "The

Message From Mars." With him came his mother, Mrs. Kate de Becker, who

might be well to mention that he

in"HOBSONS CHOICE

jokes of the clowns in Shakespeare and with the jokes of "Dundreary" he is well qualified on the subject. Those who have seen Mr. Sothern as Hamiet and Macbeth would not imagine that he could take interest in a more or less trifling wheeze. But Snakespeare loved a wheeze, and why should not Mr. Sothern's father was the greatest jokesmith of his time. As a practical joker he gained such fame that even a book was written about him, called "Birds of a Feather Flock Together. Mr. Sothern has been much amused

by the discussion of the "Dundreary"

jokes and riddles, insomuch that a good many folks have gone so far as to contrast the humor of 1859 with that of 1915. The fact is that all of the lokes in "Dundreary" were old jokes in 1859, just as much of the humor of 1915 belongs to the 1859 vintage. Henry Morley did not fall into this error when he reviewed the elder Sothern's performance in Lon-don in 1861, for he spoke of "the stale jokes" which the elder Sothern had incorporated in the play! If these jokes were stale jokes in 1861 it is rather curious to find people in 1915 imagining they were new jokes fifty years ago. Some folks seem to have overlooked that the fun of "Dundreary" Hes in the fact that a man of his breeding should take delight in a parcel of ancient wheezes, and yet, as Henry Morley said of the elder Sothern, and the same applies equally to the younger, "He contrives, in the midst of all extravagance, to maintain for his inane Lord the air of a well bred borne so nonchalantly for so many good natured gentleman." Dundreary isn't so much a matter of wheezes, stale or otherwise, but the fact that the part is overlaid with hyphen in the middle of his name ludicrous touches of manner and by- However, the hyphen has only an ap play and is so imperturbably extrava- pellative value, and has nothing to de gant that shouts of laughter follow with hyphenated nationality. If My almost every look and gesture. "Dun- Lou-Tellegen would tack on to his dreary" is, in short, a sort of drama- present American nationality tization of our old friend, Joe Miller's names of all the countries he has Jest Book, and all of Joe Miller's jests flirted with for adoption one would were hundreds of years old when Joe have to recort to a pocket atlas to de-Miller made the book a hundred or cipher it. For he has been a shamemore years ago. So to say that less philanderer with many countries. the jokes of "Dundreary" are typical His first affair was with Greece, of the humor of 1859 is sheer non- where he was born of a Greek father sense. In order to give Mr. Sothern and a Dutch mother. The affair was an opportunity to have his say on the of short duration, for he was taken subject of jokes, and "Dundreary" at an early age to his mother's counjokes in particular, he was bearded in try, and for a while betrayed quite an his dressing room at the Booth Thea- affection for it. But as he grew into tre last night. As he was wearing his weeping willows it was an excellent

drearn and he replied as follows: "Wisdom is preserved and handed destined to become a soldier. Dark down from generation to generation, eyed, passionate Spain was too near So why not the same as to humor? All jokes-at least all good jokes-are some older than the Pyramids The old jokes are old because they are good. They may be good in spite of being old. Let us admit that the reviewers are weary of old jokes. Shall these jokes be thrust into the everlasting scrap heap on that account? This brings forth a momentous ques-tion. How about those young per- a course of study in the National Con sons who never heard these jokes? servatoire, which meant that he had Shall coming generations, shall even quite forgotten that he was to become the present generation, be deprived of a soldier. By the time he had gradthis joy because dramatic reviewers nated from the Conservatoire, played a laugh no longer? Young people season at the Odeon and became leadaugh at these old jokes, which are ing man for the Divine Sarah France new to them, and old folks laugh at really began to take the affair seriold jokes which recall their routh. It ously, Indeed other countries began is an inherent trait of Indeed other countries began an inherent trait of Dundreary, a to take the affair seriously and some part and parcel of his peculiar and even began to call him French. But childish nature, to collect old jokes and his philandering habits with nations see fun in them. To enjoy these old knew no moral bounds. He had a little wheezes is part of his character. One affair with Germany, then made a short of my reviewer friends bewailed the excursion to England. Then youth-resuscitation of that ancient wheeze, ful, buxom America entered his life. Why does a dog wag his tail? and of He began by making little, flattering 'Taking of bunions, where's your overtures to it by embracing it with mother. But these jokes have given vaudeville tours as leading man for joy to thousands of simple folks for Mme. Bernhardt. He tried to remain generations, and over them some true to France, but he had left his vastly wise men have laughed them- heart in America, and returned to it selves even into greater wisdom."

time for him to be bearded. The ques-

tion of jokes was propounded to Dun-

Lou-Tellegen, cosmopolite a citizen of the world, man without a country. is no more. Henceforth he is to be just Lou-Tellegen, American citizen, at present playing the stellar role in "The Ware Case" at the Maxine Elliott Which metamorphosis was recently effected by Mr. Lou-Tellegen receiving from certain legal authorities naturalization papers, which confer on him the various privileges of orrowing money from a United States Consul when abroad, voting for woman suffrage every time that question becomes the political issue and standing up in patriotic enthusiasm every time he "Star Spangled Banner" theme is played in "Butterfly." It isn't an easy to take on the common little prefix "Mr." and divest oneself of those grnate if not romantic affixes above

### **BROOKLYN THEATRES.**

The Majestic Theatre will this week bring William Hodge to Brooklyn in "The Road to Happiness." Whether or not this lies over the Brooklyn Bridge the actor will be able to tell at the end of the week. It is true, however, that there ought to be hap-piness in the Majestic Theatre for all who enjoy the true by heck drama.

The Montauk Theatre is temporarily in the line of the movies. "The Birth of a Nation" is in its second week there

pany (the firm which brought out sphere Geraldine Farrar as a screen star), declares that the motion picture in- sions of the great operas, plays and dustry is on the eve of its greatest stories with well known stars in the trials. Mr. Goldfish declares there is leading roles supply a general demand big element in the photoplay indus- throughout the world for popular and try that is opposed to the exploitation splendid entertainment. Through the

of the public said he yesterday, "what many per- heretofore these masterpieces of litsons within the photoplay industry erature and the drama in acted form know; that there is more money being have been withheld are now seeing est right now in the motion picture business than there is money being death knell of the drama is ridiculous.

play industry was not only suffering agencies in stimulating an interest in at the present time from overproduction but that it was being unjustly and undeservedly attacked by uninformed writers for some of the magazines, who have entirely misplaced the longer is it satisfied with the inferior motion picture as an amusement and production and with bad acting.

"The public that has learned through as an art.

is more money being lost in motion plays and bad plays, also has learned pictures than there is being made will be a surprise to a great many per-sons," continued Mr. Goldfish. "But sons," continued Mr. Goldfish. it is true, and the time is not far distant when the public will learn its lesson in financial loss, and when the motion picture industry will learn the effects of its folly by a severe and thorough readjustment of conditions.

"At the present time in the United States there is more motion picture film manufactured than there is film No industry can long dramatic efforts. exhibited. withstand without upheaval such an unhealthy condition.

aims of the men engaged in the industry, I think I am reflecting the the day is not far distant, however, opinion of other manufacturers when when the overexpansion, the overeffect of these attacks. One of the will right themselves. It will mean greatest factors in the growth and de- a cleaning out process, one of elimivelopment of the motion picture has nation of the unfit and unworthy and been the faith which the public has a survival of the fit. It will be a extended to earnest effort. Consequently any sustained criticism that is thing unreasonably big salaries to aryears have built between the public producers for the services of stars and the motion picture.'

Mr. Goldfish said that much of the misconception of the present business two sisters, Nesta and Marie, who like- and artistic status of the photoplay industry has been due to a general belief that before the present great de-"The Servant in the House," with velopment ends the netion picture will have supplanted the stage, and the zation. And all these things cannot afternoon. December 12, at 3:30 with Viola Allen: "The Ty- rewards previously reserved to the be had for so much money." phoon," with Walker Whiteside, and theatre will come to the motion piclast season with Pauline Fredericks in ture.
"Innocence."
"Nothing could be further from the

truth." said the Lasky executive. motion picture does not supplant and MOTION PICTURE MAN WARNS displace the stage. Nor is it the desire, the aim or the dream of the men Declares There Are Brenkers While alluring promises of enor- separate and distinct form of entermous profits for the public are being tainment from the stage and ever will lar and this season a number of li- tion," Miss Harriet Ford. mentioned which Mr. Lou-Te legen has made by some film manufacturing remain so. Each has its separate mis- braries have been added to the list of

"At the present time photoplay yer-

medium of the photoplay thousands "It is about time the public knew," and hundreds of thousands from whom them. But to say that this means the On the contrary, I should say that the Mr. Goldfish declared that the photo- photoplay is one of the greatest the drama. Having seen great actors on the screen and beautifully produced pieces, the public is raising its standard of taste for these things. No

"Perhaps my statement that there experience to choose between good to distinguish between good photoplays and inferior photoplays. Without becoming personal I believe with modesty I might refer to the throngs which crowded the Strand Theatre during the engagements there of the film productions of Geraldine Farrar 'Carmen' and Mary Pickford in 'Madame Butterfly,' and the long run of 'Birth of a Nation' at the Liberty These are instances of the public's support of especially worthy photo-

"It must not be inferred, however, that I am of the opinion, as execu-"As regards the attacks against the tive head of one of the big producing photoplay art from writers who are companies, that the future of motion misquoting and misrepresenting the pictures is not to be a brilliant one. Quite the contrary. I do believe that say we are concerned only with the inflation and the unsound conditions great benefit to the industry. For one anjust and untrue might serve to tists will stop. The present maddenweaken this strong bond which the ing competition among motion picture cannot long endure.

"There is a belief that money and money alone will bring success to motion pictures. This belief also will will bring success in the future will be brains, artistic ideals and organi-

#### NOTES OF THE STAGE.

Players at the Bandbox Theatre will be Roberts; reading, Mrs. Fiske; address, the subject for the discussions conin the producing art that it should, ducted this month by the Drama can Stage," Arthur Byron, and song Motion pictures and photoplays are a League at the public libraries. Last "The Year's at the Spring," Emma year these meetings proved very popu- Roberts, and address, "An Appreciaconcerns Samuel Goldfish, executive sion to perform and each will thrive discussion centres. Only plays bulle- quired.

### VARIETY IN BROOKLYN.

BUSHWICK THEATRE-Mrs Langtry in her sketch, "Ashes," comes to the Bushwick Theatre this week in a continuance of her vaudeville travels. Others on the bill will be Lillian Kingsbury in "The Coward," Donahue and Stewart, Marie Fitzgibbon, William Pruette, the Amoros Sisters, Fields and Holliday, Kiet and De Mont and the Kurtis Roosters.

ORPHEUM THEATRE-Grace La Rue, Dave Kramer and George Merton, Deiro, pianist Harry Cooper in "The Mail Carrier," Bankoff and Girlie, Robbie Fordone, Harry Girard and company in "The Luck of a Totem," Werner Amoras com-pany, Perry and Heath, Anna Laughlin and William Saxton and the Gladiators.

PROSPECT THEATRE—Frank McIntyre, Emma Carus, Hunting and Frances, Harry Gilfoil. Adelaide Hermann, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde, Howard, Kibbel and Herbert, Foley and O'Neil. Sunday concerts today as usual.

STAR THEATRE-"The Worth of a Nation," a burlesque on "The Birth of a Nation," will seen this week at the Star Theatre, presented by the Americans company. The second half of the show is called "Girls and Jingles."

tined by the Drama League are discussed. The meetings are open to the The leaders of the discussions in December are Hiram K. Moderwell Barret Clark, Mrs. Josephine Wehn, Mrs. Clara Ruge, Mrs. C. H. Strauss, Curt Hansen, Elwood J. Harlan and Edward Freidman.

To-night at the Neighborhood Playhouse the Olive Mead Quartet (Olive Mead, first violin: Vera Fonaroff, second violin; Gladys North, viola; Lillian Littleshales, violoncello) will give a concert which will include the Tschaikowski quartet in E flat minor, the Beethoven cavatina in B flat major and the Schumann quartet in A minor

The MacDowell Club and othe friends and associates of Mrs. Sarah be dispelled. On the contrary, what Cowell LeMoyne are arranging a public meeting to be held in her memory at the Lyceum Theatre on Sunda; o'clock. Daniel Frohman will in troduce the speakers and artists and the programme will be as follows:

Violin solo, David Mannes; addres: The bill of comparative comedy now "An Appreciation," the Rev. Percy being given by the Washington Square Stickney Grant, D. D.; song, Emma "Mrs. LeMoyne's Place on the Ameri-No cards of admission will

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tions.

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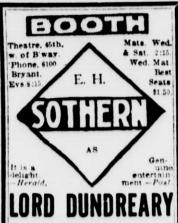
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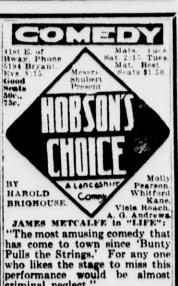
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